Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 295531

63

ORIGIN TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 L-03 H-02 IGA-02 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-04 CEA-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /075 R

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APPROVED BY EB/IFD EHPREEG
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ARA-LA/PAN:ENADEAU
DAA/LA:DLION
TREASURY:RERB

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O 040009Z DEC 76 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: CONVENTION CENTER

REFTEL: PANAMA 08194

1. SUGGEST YOU DRAW ON FOLLOWING TO ALLAY MINISTER BARLETTA'S CONCERNS ABOUT USG POSITION RELATING TO PROPOSED IDB ORDINARY CAPITAL TOURISM PROJECT AND PUT IN PERSPECTIVE THAT WHAT ARE PURELY TECHNICAL CONCERNS UNFORTUNATELY HAVE BEEN BLOWN UP TO A POLITICAL PROBLEM. YOU MAY INFORM GOP THERE ARE DIFFERENCES OF VIEW WITHIN USG RELATING TO ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY ASPECTS OF CONVENTION CENTER COMPONENT OF IDB TOURISM LOAN, AS WELL AS POLICY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 STATE 295531

CONCERNS AS TO WHETHER IDB SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN

FINANCING CONVENTION CENTER PROJECTS BUT THAT THERE IS NO FIRM US POSITION ON CONVENTION CENTER AT THIS TIME.FYI: IN KEEPING WITH STANDARD PRACTICE OF INFORMING IDB MANAGEMENT OF POSSIBLE PROBLEMS AT EARLY STAGE OF PROJECT DEVELOPMENT TO AVOID CONFRONTATIONS IN BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WE INFORMED BANK MANAGEMENT OF OUR CONCERNS SO THAT THEY COULD BE DEALT WITH ON A TECHNICAL BASIS. US EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMUNICATION TO IDP MANAGEMENT DESCRIBED US CONCERNS AS PURELY TECHNICAL IN NATURE BASED ON ANALYSIS BY SOME GOVERNMENT ECONOMISTS. END FYI. WE UNDERSTAND

THAT IDB LOAN DOCUMENT IS NOT IN FINAL FORM BUT HAVE VERIFIED THAT IDB IS INCLUDING CONVENTION CENTER AS COMPONENT IN PROPOSED TOURISM PROJECT. WE WILL DEVELOP FINAL USG POSITION ON LOAN WHEN DOCUMENT BECOMES AVAILABLE, PROBABLY IN NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS, AND WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED. YOU CAN OF COURSE, ASSURE BARLETTA THAT THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO POLITICAL MOTIVATION BEHIND THE QUESTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ASKED ABOUT THE LOAN.

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